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MODIFICATIONS.

We understand that modifications of the ordinance lately passed by the City Council relative to the liquor traffic, are talked of. Some people think that licenses and fines are too high, and that there should be provision made for one dramshop and one grocery. It is to be presumed that the object of these high licenses and fines was to stop that thing altogether. The statute of the State makes the penalty of a violation of the law against selling liquor on Sunday, a fine of fifty dollars. To lower any of the licenses or fines would be to encourage the liquor traffic. This, no man who has paid any attention to public sentiment in this city can believe for a moment would be sustained by the people.

As for permitting one man to sell liquor and prohibiting all others, even the liquor sellers themselves would not tolerate such partial legislation. It would in its operation give rise to, encourage and foster, discontents and bad feelings between one citizen and another. The supreme folly of such a course would fully present itself when the people should be called upon to designate the successful candidate for public favor. Besides, in obedience to the law, and in compliance with the wishes of a majority of the voters of this township, the county court has made an Order to suspend the granting of licenses for twelve months—and this Order is irrevocable, and settles the question of itself.

In other kinds of business there is a competition—the more competition the better. If liquor selling is recognized as a business which ought to be permitted among us at all, why draw a line between it and all other sorts of traffic, by cutting off the free right of one man to do that which the law permits his next door neighbor to do. Liberty rightly understood, is "the right to do whatever the laws permit"—and if the law permits Thomas Johnson to buy and sell, no good reason can be shown why it should prohibit John Thompson from also buying and selling. What kind of business is this, which can only be sustained by partial and unjust legislation?

The County Court of Marion county has passed an Order under which the granting of dram-shop licenses will be suspended for twelve months. It appears that Mr. Buford's is the only licensed dram-shop in this city! It will be expected, however, that the County Court will grant no more tavern licenses to dram-shops.

The President has not countermanded the Japan expedition, as has been reported. He was thought to be bent on getting up a war, and intended on that account to keep all our war vessels at home; but it is hoped he has too much sense to involve the country in any unnecessary contest.

RAIN OF SULPHUR.—There was a shower of rain last night, and this morning we observe considerable quantities of a substance resembling sulphur in appearance. This was lying on the surface of the ground, near the margin of puddles, and floating on the water. Some persons thought they could very plainly detect a smell of sulphur.

This phenomenon has been noticed recently at New Orleans and at Louisville.

SHOCKING MURDER.—The New York papers contain the particulars of a most shocking murder, committed there on Monday night by a man named Neary on the person of his wife. This murder is in some respects similar to the late tragedy at Philadelphia. Neary it appears, while in his sober senses, deliberately beat his wife about the head with a stone cutter's mallet and chisel until her skull was crushed in several places, and she was rendered senseless, in which state she remained until she died. The murder was committed in the presence of her three children, the eldest of which a boy 15 years of age, testified against his father in a firm, straight forward manner.

CINCINNATI, April 9.

Van Lent, the barkeeper on the Buckeye State, was shot dead to-day at a horse auction on Fifth street, by a man named Harret. The dispute arose about a woman.

From the Ohio Organ of Temperance.
INDIANA TEMPERANCE LAW.

We intended to have noticed this beautiful specimen of modern legislation in detail, but upon further reflection we have concluded that it is not worthy of such notice; the ammunition is worth more than the game. It is a disgrace to its authors and supporters, and an insult to the intelligence of the people of the State. We sincerely hope that the friends of temperance in Indiana will not be deluded into the belief that anything good can be accomplished by its enforcement.

We hope they will let the law and the Legislature die together. The enemies of temperance could not have constructed a better dead-fall for those who are silly enough to nibble at such bait. The Legislature have put into the hands of the friends of decency a little switch with which to attack a skunk, and forbidden them to use a deadly weapon. It is not difficult to foretell who will get worsted in the unequal conflict.

The Legislature had the same pious streak which has characterized all that preceded it, when providing for the legal sale of whisky, viz: "No liquor must be sold on the Sabbath." Oh! no, it would be awful to keep a bar open on the Lord's day! This provision has existed in some form for the last two hundred years, and yet has always been shamefully and notoriously violated, and it always will be. We were struck with the humanity and policy of the 7th section of the Indiana Act. It reads thus:

"Sec. 7. Any person who shall, by the retailing of spirituous liquor, cause the intoxication of any person, shall board, keep and take care of such person until he shall be able, without assistance, safely to return to his home; and, in failure to do so, it shall be lawful for any other person to do so, or cause the same to be done; which person shall have an action against such retailer, for reasonable compensation for such service, and fifty per cent. damages thereon."

If it would not be uncharitable, we would suspect that some of the members of the General Assembly had had a bitter experience on this point, by being kicked out of a village bar-room drunk some night, or that at a day, not far future, when they had but a single dime left, they might go to a tavern, get drunk, and sponge their board for a few days. It would certainly be very pleasant for a poor devil, when out of change, to sit round a bar-room till some kind friend invited him to drink, and thus secure him lodging and good nursing for the night. Section 17 provides that, all houses where liquor is sold in less quantity than a quart, without first obtaining a license, are, and shall be, held as "common and public nuisances," and proceeded against as such. What stultification! A license destroys a nuisance!! Oh! Hoosierdom, what progress backwards!

Temperance men of Indiana, we beseech you to let the friends of such a monster sustain it! Treat it as a nullity, (for you will find it worse than a nullity if you attempt its enforcement,) and organize at once to elect different men next winter.

DREADFUL TRAGEDY.—A man at Bowling Green, Ohio, named Valentine Sage, whose mind had become unsettled through religious phrenzy, after performing some acts of madness, seized one of his children by the feet and dashed its brains out on a log. His wife, who was ill, leaped from the bed, and was knocked down by him, but the neighbors came in and secured him. He is now a raving maniac.

LICENSE OR NO-LICENSE.—The Macoupin Statesman says that the County Court of that County has refused three applications to grant License to retail ardent spirits. In the cities of Springfield and Alton, the rates of license have been established at \$300. This, however, is only half way justice. The City Council of these places might take a lesson from the County Court of Macoupin.—[Jacksonville (Ill.) Journal.]

G. G. Davenport has been appointed Chief Justice of New Mexico; Kirby Benedict Associate Justice; Charles E. Ramsay Marshal of that Territory. These appointments have been confirmed.

WASHINGTON, April 9.

The Senate appointed a committee to wait on the President, who informed the Senate that he had no further communications to make. It was then resolved that the President pro tem, adjourn the Senate finally on Monday, at 1 o'clock.

Havana news to the 31st ult., states that Mr. King's health is failing rapidly. His physicians entertain no hopes of his recovery.

Santa Anna has been elected President of Mexico. He will be inaugurated on reaching the Capital.

FROM CALIFORNIA.

We take the following extracts from Mr. Crockett's last letter to the St. Louis Intelligence—dated Feb. 28th:

For the last few weeks the papers from the interior have been filled with accounts of numerous murders and robberies, committed by a Mexican bandit, named "Joaquin," who is said to be the chief of a band of desperadoes of sixty or seventy, who have infested Calaveras county for several months. They rob and murder in the most open and cruel manner, and their last exploit was the attacking of a Chinese camp, killing several Chinamen and robbing them of a large sum of money—stated in the papers at \$30,000. "Joaquin" is said to be a young man of about nineteen, and rumor has it that he wears a coat of mail and is therefore bullet-proof. Great efforts have been made to capture him and the Governor has offered a reward of \$1,000 for his apprehension. Thus far, however, he has eluded pursuit and is yet at large. The result will probably be, that before many days elapse, his lifeless body will become an appendage to the limb of a tree. If he is captured alive, such will doubtless be his fate.

A correspondent of the *Herald* of this city, writing from Honolulu, gives some very interesting statistics concerning the Sandwich Islands, and which are the more deserving of attention, from the fact that very shortly these islands must of necessity be "annexed" to the confederacy. From a census lately taken, it appears the total population of the islands is 80,841, of whom 78,854 are natives, and the remainder foreigners. A little more than seventy years ago these islands contained a population of 400,000; since which period it has dwindled down to its present inconsiderable number. In 1836 the entire population was 108,579; so that in the last seventeen years it has diminished nearly 28,000. Last year, the deaths were 7,943, whilst the births were only 1,478, and from these indications it is evident enough the native population will very soon be extinct. Honolulu, the chief town, contains about 9,000 inhabitants, of whom 863 are foreigners. It is the chief rendezvous for "whalers" in the Pacific, and is a place of considerable trade. The mortality amongst the population is not imputable to the climate, (which is healthy and delicious) but to certain loathsome diseases with which almost the whole native population is infected.

The sickness on the Panama steamers recently, has been truly appalling. On the Golden Gate on her last voyage, there were 23 deaths, and on the Winfield Scott about 40, chiefly from yellow-fever. When it is remembered that these vessels were at sea only about 14 days, it is not difficult to comprehend how very distressing must have been the condition of even those passengers who were not sick. The voyage to California, on the crowded steamers, through a tropical climate, is indeed a serious and sometimes a most perilous undertaking. As a general thing, the voyage around Cape Horn in a clipper ship, is much to be preferred, especially for families.

WASHINGTON, April 9—P. M.

It is rumored this evening, that Marcy must leave the Cabinet. There is no reliable authority for the report; but for some reasons the Senate hesitates to fix any day for adjournment, and it is not believed that minor appointments only would keep them here another day.

There are three dollar counterfeit bills out on the Oneida valley Bank of New York.

The Maine legislature has passed a most stringent law to stop the crevices in the Maine Liquor Law, by a vote of 63 to 43. This vote is pretty conclusive evidence that the Liquor Law is popular in Maine.

Quincy has outraged this county, and this county will endeavor to requite Quincy for the wrong done. The "Snycartia Plankroad" is but the first instalment.—[Pittsfield Free Press.]

Gold mines of great value have been discovered in Oregon.

A letter from Haabna says that over 1,500 slaves have landed on the Cuban shores within a few days, from Africa.

Austin Brooks of the "Herald" is the new postmaster at Quincy.

PROVIDENCE, April 7—P. M.

The returns show 500 majority in favor of sustaining the Liquor Law; the Assembly, however, is opposed to it.

Hawthorne, the new minister to England was Pierce's biographer. So he gets \$40,000 a year for his pains. Who would not write a book for such pay.

Late advices state that the peace of all Europe is threatened by the prospect of a war between Russia and Turkey. The former will have the co-operation of Austria, while Turkey it is supposed will be defended by the united forces of Great Britain and France.

ANECDOTE OF THE PARISHIAN POLICE

Previously to the year 1789, but at what precise date, I cannot say, the city of Paris possessed as guardian of its safety, and chief minister of police, a man of rare talent and integrity. At the same period, the parish of St. Germais, in the quarter of the Rue St. Antoine, had for its cure a kind, venerable old man, whose whole life was spent in doing good both to the souls and bodies of his fellow creatures, and holy consistency and dignified courage caused him to be beloved by the good, and respected even by the most abandoned character. One cold, dark winter's night, the bell at the old cure's door was rung loudly, and he, although in bed, immediately rose and opened the door, anticipating a summons to some sick or dying bed.

A personage, richly dressed, with his features partly concealed by a large false beard, stood outside. Addressing the cure in a courteous and graceful manner, he apologized for his unseasonable visit, which, as he said, the high reputation of Monsieur had induced him to make.

"A great and terrible, but necessary and inevitable deed, he continued, 'is to be done. Time presses; a soul about to pass into eternity implores your ministry. If you come you must allow your eyes to be bandaged, ask no questions, but consent to act simply as spiritual consolers of a dying woman. If you refuse to accompany me, no other priest can be admitted, and her spirit must pass alone."

After a moment of secret prayer, the cure answered, 'I will go with you. Without asking any further explanation, he allowed his eyes to be bandaged, and leaned on the arm of his suspicious visitor. They both got into a coach, whose windows were immediately covered with wooden shutters, and then they drove off rapidly. They seemed to go a long way, and make many doubling and turnings ere the coach drove under a wide archway and stopped.

During this time not a single word had been exchanged between the travellers, and ere they got out the stranger assured himself that the bandage over his companion's eyes had not been displaced, and then taking the old man respectfully by the hand, he assisted him to alight, and to ascend the wide steps of a staircase, as far as the second story. A great door opened, as if of itself, and several thickly carpeted rooms were traversed in silence. At length another door was opened by the guide, and the cure felt his bandage removed. They were in a solemn looking bed chamber; near a bed, half veiled by thick damask curtains, was a small table, supporting two wax lights, which feebly illuminated the cold, death like apartment. The stranger, he was the Duke de—, then bowing to the cure, led him towards the bed, drew back the curtains, and said in a solemn tone:

"Minister of God, before you is a woman who has betrayed the blood of her ancestors, and whose doom is irrevocably fixed. She knows on what conditions an interview has been granted her; she knows, too, that all supplications would be useless. You knew your duty, M. le Cure; I leave you to fulfill it, and will return to seek you in half an hour."

So saying he departed, and the agitated priest saw lying on the bed a young and beautiful girl, bathed in tears and battling with despair, and calling, in her bitter agony, for the comforts of religion. No investigation possible! for the unhappy creature declared herself bound, by a terrible oath, to conceal her name, besides, she knew not in what place she was.

"I am, she said, 'the victim of a secret family tribunal whose sentence is irrevocable! More I cannot tell, I forgive my enemies, as I trust God will forgive me. Pray for me!"

The minister of religion invoked the sublime promises of the gospel to soothe her troubled soul, and he succeeded. Her countenance after a time became composed, she clasped her hands in fervent prayer, and then extended them towards her consoler.

As she did so, the cure perceived that the sleeve of her robe was stained with blood.

"My child, said he, with a trembling voice, 'what is this?"

"Father, it is the vein which they have already opened, and the bandage no doubt was carelessly put on."

At these words a sudden thought struck the priest. He unrolled the dressing, allowed the blood to flow, steeped his handkerchief in it, then replaced the bandage, concealed the stained handkerchief within his vest, and whispered:

Farewell, my daughter, take courage and have confidence in God!"

The half hour had expired, and the step of the terrible conductor was heard approaching.

I am ready, said the cure, and having allowed his eyes covered he took the arm of the Duke de—, and left the awful room, praying, meanwhile, with secret fervor.

Arrived at the foot of the staircase, the old man succeeded, without his guide's knowledge, in slightly displacing the thick bandage so as to admit a partial ray of lamp light. Finding himself in the carriage gateway, he managed to stumble and fall, with both hands forwards to—